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THE FARMER.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1833.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

THEIR BENEFICIAL EFFECTS, AND THEIR FORMATION URGED.

Agricultural Societies have recently been organized in Clinton and Essex, and in Columbia counties. We hope to see them established, ere another year, in most of the counties where they do not already exist. It is worthy of remark, that in Columbia, where the old society had excited the strongest prejudice, the very farmers who were formerly the most hostile, were the most forward now in assisting at the formation of the new society. They frankly acknowledged, that since the organization of the old society, ten years ago, the improvements in every department of husbandry had been manifestly great, and they were willing to impute these benefits, in a great measure, to the influence of that society, bad and imperfect as they had thought its management. The present society has been organized under the most flattering auspices.

It is apparent to every observing man, that agricultural societies have had a benign influence, not only in facilitating the labors, and increasing the profits of husbandry, but in improving the intellectual and moral condition of the people. The progress of improvement, in these particulars, has probably been greater in Jefferson than in any other county in the state, in the last twelve years, and during the successful operation of her agricultural society. As one branch of her improvement, I will mention, that in traveling through most of the northern and western counties, I came to the conclusion, after critical observation, that the horses in Jefferson were at least twenty per cent. better than in any other county through which I passed. I will quote another illustration of these advantages from a sister state: I allude to the manifest improvement which has been made in Berkshire county, through her agricultural society, the oldest county society in our country, and which still continues its usefulness with unabated vigor. I asked an intelligent inhabitant of this county yesterday his opinion of the extent of the benefits which Berkshire had derived from her agricultural society. He replied, that it had enhanced the value of her lands, and its products, thirty per cent., and accelerated intellectual improvement thirty years.

There is much truth, as well as point, in the toast given by Judge Hickock, at the late agricultural dinner: Farmers *are* "the liberal supporters of every interest *but their own*." They cheerfully concur in the appropriation of the public moneys for literary, theological and medical schools; but you ask them for schools for the benefit of agriculture, in which their sons may be instructed in the best models of farming, and at the same time acquire the means of becoming intelligent and distinguished in life, and they deny you, or rather themselves, the boon. Does this arise from false modesty, or from a belief that much knowledge is incompatible with agricultural labor? The latter conclusion is certainly a false one. Every man must be conscious, that mind is capable of greatly aiding the operations of the hands; otherwise labor would be the mere exercise of animal strength, such as is afforded by the ox or the horse. What but mind, enlightened and expanded, gives to civilized society the comforts and means of happiness which is no where found in savage life? And if the mind is beneficial to labor by its skill and contrivance, the more it is instructed in those laws which nature has established for the government of matter, and in the experience and improvement of others, the more likely it is to prove beneficial to our physical powers. The more knowledge the more power. Why not extend to our sons, then, these compound energies, which will not only fit them to become good farmers, but eminent men and useful citizens.

But to return from this digression to the subject of agricultural societies. I have endeavored to show that they have been beneficial, and continue to be beneficial, not only to agriculture and in the accumulation of wealth, but to intellectual and moral improvement, wherever they have been established and sustained. They have tended to draw forth and hold up for public example the best models of practice in every department of farming. They have produced a laudable emulation, brought into lively exercise the faculties of the mind, nerved the arm of labor, and called forth the dormant energies of our nature. They have enlarged the sphere of useful knowledge, multiplied the comforts of life, and increased the measure of human happiness.

Are there not a dozen individuals in each county, (and half this number of active men will suffice,) who are willing to spend a little time, and a little money too, to spread around them these blessings? The charity which anticipates want, and prevents it by stimulating and rewarding industry, is most to be commended. It is easier to prevent than to cure an evil. What if they do not expect to derive immediate personal benefit, are the social duties nothing? Are we not bound to exercise a salutary influence on society? Does not our individual happiness depend in a measure upon the industry, intelligence and prosperity of those around us? The organization of county societies, and their concentrated action, would produce wonders in improving the face of our country, and the intellectual and moral condition of its inhabitants. With a consciousness, then, that we are performing a duty—that we are actuated by good will to man, let us discard our qualms and our prejudices, and emulate those who have gone before us in the work of improvement and usefulness. B.

HINTS TO FARMERS--No. VII.

Self-instruction is a principal means of arriving at eminence in any employment. The education we receive in youth serves but as the foundation, at best, of the superstructure which is to be reared in manhood, and every individual is, in a measure, his own architect, and may select his model. To the Farmer this truth applies with as much force as to any other employment. The business of husbandry is so diversified, that the wisest men engaged in its pursuits, continue to add to their knowledge as long as they retain the powers of intellect. The experience of every country, and of every day, is adding practically something new and useful to this branch of labor, while science is beaming upon it the light and life of her effulgent rays. Him that will may profit by the concentrated wisdom of the age, and advance progressively in improvement, in usefulness, and in intellectual enjoyment. The farmer is urged to the effort by a triple consideration:—the improvement which it promises to his mind and his means;—the benefit which the example confers on his children;—and the increased ability it may afford of doing good to those around him—the last a consideration of no little weight with those who appreciate their obligations to society, and who have felt the pleasures that flow from their requital. The directions for self-instruction are comprised in two words: BECOME READERS. Most farmers can appropriate three or four hours in every twenty-four of the winter months, to this means of acquiring knowledge; and while they are cultivating their own, they cannot fail to scatter seeds of usefulness in the prolific minds of their children. In the period of ordinary life, these *hours* will make an aggregate of *years*.

Let me put a case. Who of you, that has a spark of laudable ambition, would not feel it a privilege to spend an evening with Washington, Arthur Young, or Sir John Sinclair, all men eminent as farmers, and hear them relate their practice, their observations, and their improvements in husbandry? Who could fail to profit from their instructions? And again. What farmer would not count himself fortunate in the opportunity of hearing Sir Humphrey Davy, or some other eminent chimist, explain, in language adapted to his comprehension, the nature and properties of the soil he tills, of the plants he rears, and of the manures he employs,—of the agency in vegetation of air, heat, light and moisture, and the method of applying these facts to his immediate benefit? Now it happens that all this is virtually within his reach. Those great men have written all I have supposed, and have left their instructions for your benefit. Do you converse, in your social meetings with your neighbors, upon husbandry, without receiving some useful hint in your business, or imparting such to others? And if you experience pleasure and profit from this limited intercourse, how much greater must be the advantage when you extend it, as you may, through books, to the most eminent farmers of your own and every other country? Besides, there are other branches of knowledge connected with your duties in life, and

with your happiness, which it becomes you to acquire, and to teach to those confided to your care. And the means are within your reach. Franklin rose from obscurity to distinguished eminence, and from indigence to wealth, principally by the aid of self-instruction. He commenced his course of usefulness by buying single volumes, gleaning the knowledge they afforded, and then selling them to buy others. Public libraries were not then known among us. The facilities which these afford are manifestly great. They are a cheap and an excellent means of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge. The annual contributions of a few neighbors will soon buy a respectable collection of books, and the individual then receives the advantage not only of his own expenditure, but of that of the whole association. You should, at all events, subscribe for one or more agricultural periodicals, if you mean to keep pace with the improvements of the day. The New-York Farmer, printed at New-York, the Genesee Farmer, printed at Rochester, and the New-England Farmer, printed at Boston, are all valuable weekly or monthly papers, wholly devoted to the business in which you are engaged. The terms of subscription are low, and if three neighbors would each take one, they might be reciprocally interchanged, and all have the advantage of the three. They are unquestionably cheap and valuable sources of useful information.

The human mind is prolific in good or evil. It is seldom sterile. Like our soils, it *will* produce either useful or noxious plants; and if we do not cultivate and nurture the good, the bad will spring up and grow spontaneously. Our duties to our families—our obligations to society—our pride as good farmers, combine, with irresistible force, to urge us to the decision, that neither our minds nor our lands shall RUN TO WASTE; but that both shall be sedulously cultivated in the way that shall best conduce to usefulness and happiness in time and eternity. B.

VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY.

TO CHECK THE GROWTH OF FRUIT TREES AND PROMOTE THEIR FRUITFULNESS.

In page 42, of this volume, is an inquiry by the editor, of "what will check the too free growth of fruit trees, so as to produce fruit buds, flowers and fruit? and if separating a part of the roots from the stock would produce the effect?"

These are important inquiries, and I will try to answer them, my own experience having fully illustrated the example stated, and its remedy.

In order to a full understanding of the subject, we must inquire:

1. Into the cause producing the effect, viz: the too rapid growth of the wood, and its consequent unfruitfulness; and

2. The legitimate and physiological treatment necessary to obtain the desired result.

Trees, and in fact all vegetables, have, like animals, three distinct periods of existence, viz: youth, maturity and decay. Youth may be termed that period in which the tree is growing to a bearing state, the time consumed for which depends much on its treatment and kind. Maturity is the term in which it yields its fruit; and decay, finally, but almost imperceptibly, follows sooner or later, and at last puts an end to its existence.

These three states, or periods, may be measurably retarded, or accelerated, by artificial causes. The young sapling, healthy and fresh from the nursery, planted into a kindly soil, and cultivated with attention, throws out and expands its vigorous shoots for many years. It finally, although it may seem a protracted time, arrives at its bearing age, and yields its annual supply of fruit, bountiful in proportion to its stature, and through a succession of years proportioned to its former term of youthfulness; and even age, as come it finally must, seems hardly willing to arrest its bounty, and lingers with tardy pace ere its withering hand is laid upon it. This I conceive to be the most natural and profitable course of all fruit bearing trees. I know that many people are in great haste to have their fruit trees yield their long expected reward, and in constant expectation of receiving it, have cultivated and treated them with much care. They are, to be sure, highly gratified in their exuberant growth, and if in a few years they do not yield a corresponding supply of fruit, are often apt to complain.

Now, on the true principles of vegetable physiology, the complainants are erring, and the tree right. They, for the purpose of getting fruit soon, stuff the tree with vegetable nutriment almost to repletion. The tree, in its turn, understanding well its own proper functions, thrives apace, intending *at a proper time*, to pay principal and interest for the kindness thus heaped upon it, and which it assuredly will do if suffered. But the owner is impatient for his fruit, and prunes and nurses the tree, wondering why it does not yield him fruit, and perhaps even threatens to destroy it for its perverseness. The simple fact is, the tree is not ready. It has not arrived at maturity, and is prevented from yielding fruit from the very nourishment and fulness continually received from the hand of its cultivator.

This I assume to be the natural state of the tree. But the object, as I infer from the questions at the head of this article, is, to obtain the fruit before the tree arrives at maturity, or, more technically, *to force it*.

The question now recurs, will you remedy it by cutting off a part of the roots?

By no means. The tree has no more roots than are necessary for its support, and would be much injured by parting with a share of them. Besides, I am unable to account, on physiological principles, how the cutting off a part of its roots will throw fruit buds into the top of the tree. The production of flowers and fruit require as liberal supplies of sap as that of wood, and if the source of supply be cut off, viz. the root, from whence is the supply to come?

But I proceed to consider the second inquiry, to wit: "to check the exuberant growth of wood, and cause it to produce fruit buds, flowers and fruit."

I shall assume that the trees are of well known kinds, and whose bearing qualities have been tested, and that they are situated in an open and well cultivated ground, as I believe the *whole* complaint can be made under no other circumstances. The trees have also been well pruned, and are accommodated with a good shaped head for bearing, and of fair size. My answer is: *Lay your ground, on which your trees stand, well down to grass, and let it remain so for several years.* The next year after seeding the ground, the growth of young wood will be much diminished, and fruit buds will form in moderate quantities; flowers and fruit will follow the next season. That year, if the tree be an annnal bearer, an increased number of fruit buds will be found, and so continue in annual succession. If, after a few years, the tree is too stationary in its growth, for it certainly will not throw out young wood very rapidly, plough, and cultivate, and manure the land, and you can supply the trees with any amount of young wood required, although the bearing will still continue in an abated degree. If you find your trees get too thrifty, you have only to seed down again, and manage as circumstances may require.

That this method has been tried with success I know, for I did it myself some years ago, and am indebted partly to accident for the discovery. About the year 1817, my father had an orchard which, when planted, nearly surrounded his garden, and which was used mostly for mowing ground. The trees were young, perhaps fifteen years old, and had grown tolerably well. A few years before the time I speak of, the garden had been enlarged on two sides, which took, on each side, a row of apple trees within the fence. The land being well cultivated, the trees grew astonishingly; and not being pruned, acquired immense heads, and bore little or no fruit, while those in the meadow, although of much less size, bore abundantly. I was then a boy of eighteen years old, and the trees were delivered over to my care, "to prune into good order." I had read "Forsyth on Fruit Trees," and supposed I knew all about it; so at it I went, with the ax and saw, and took out full one third of their tops, supposing that they would now go to bearing at once. But not so. They grew as before, and bore *a little better* than they had done. I confess I knew not what to do, although, if I had let them alone, they would have borne, when "their time come," all the better for it; yet I was impatient for their fruit. At length the plan suggested itself to seed down the ground where they stood to grass. It was done, and in a short time their growth was nearly stopped, and they bore abundantly of the finest apples.

They are now, for I saw them two years since, much the finest of all the trees in the orchard, from the benefit of having a rapid growth in their youth; and the others, from growing less rapidly when young, and bearing so much sooner, have a much older appearance, and were the ground in which they stand not occasionally ploughed and cultivated, would soon bear evident marks of decay.

This matter now must be accounted for on rational principles, and it may truly be hard to compel a person to say what makes the tree bear wood one year and fruit the next, when the whole process is hidden in the earth, and a profound secret of nature. I will, however, state my own opinion, and others may judge of its correctness.

While trees are young, their roots expand and run near the surface of the earth. If the ground be cultivated, the earth is warm and light, and the roots absorb much nourishment, and a rapid growth of young wood is the sole consequence. In process of time, as the tree increases in size, the roots find their way deep into the earth, where the temperature is lower, and its growth is by degrees checked; fruit buds are consequently

formed, and the tree comes into the bearing state. Now, putting land into grass has the same effect. The sun is hidden from the earth. The temperature is lower—the richer nutricious gases of the soil are absorbed by the grass, and the same result is produced as if maturer age had forced the roots more deeply in the ground. ULMUS.

CHESS.

AS IT IS PRODUCED ONLY FROM ITS OWN SEED, IT MAY BE DESTROYED.

We who reject the doctrine of transmutation, have some advantage over our opponents. If our advice be generally followed, all the *chess growing from chess* will be destroyed; but this will be all the chess there is, if we are in the right; and then the country will be rid of the nuisance. Now suppose for a moment that we are in error: they *cannot do* more good when they are *right*, than we *actually do* when we are *wrong*; but if they are wrong, as we insist they are, they do no good at all, but something worse.

Let us look at the matter a little closer. We hold out encouragement to our farmers to persevere in the extirpation of chess, assuring them that like the *dock* and the *mullein*, it cannot spring from any thing but its own seed: therefore destroy all the plants before they go to seed, and if none be, or has been, brought from other places, there is the end of one weed.

Very different from this however, is the conduct of our opponents; and those farmers who imbibe their notions, may well say, 'What is the use of trying? If we destroy all the chess on our farms, we shall soon have enough more. Wheat, as fast as we affront it with bad treatment, will turn into chess. We cannot clear our farms of it, and we may as well quietly submit to what we cannot avoid.'

It must therefore appear that our opponents in this controversy, have not in view the advancement of our agriculture; and while we abstain from prying too closely into the cause of so much zeal directed to no useful purpose, let us hope that something may be found more worthy of them than a horror of having old and long cherished opinions disturbed and broken up.

I think *some* indeed, may be partly actuated by a love for truth; and I like the candid manner in which my neighbor *Samuel Griggs* has written on this subject. We are aware however, that almost every kind of grain has, at some time or other, been suspected of turning into other kinds; and if I had room and my readers patience, I would lay before him a long list of such wonders. But in place of this, it will be better to offer such explanations as occurred to me while I was reading his essay, and before I read the editor's remarks, for there are various ways in which chess may obtain possession of a field.

It may be laid down as a general proposition that *All (English) grain is presumed to contain chess, in larger or smaller quantities, unless the contrary be proved;* and no experiment in favor of transmutation ought to be reported, unless *special search* with regard to chess in the seed grain has been made by some competent person. The propriety of this rule, I think must be admitted by every reasonable man. We have a right to "the whole truth." Unless where *particular pains* have been taken to extirpate this *weed*, it is highly probable that not one bushel of wheat entirely free from it, could be found in the whole Genesee Country. If wheat or rye contains it, there is little chance for oats or barley to escape, when all these kinds of grain are threshed in the same barn. The *tailings* which abound with chess, are often scattered over the floor; and even if it be swept, a portion will remain in the cracks and crevices, which a subsequent sweeping may brush up among the grain which has been just threshed, and which may have been clean when it was brought to the barn. Chess is easily hid among other grain; and it has been shown* that what many farmers would call *clean seed wheat* contains chess enough for a crop. A friend of mine the other day, saw some wheat at the mill so remarkably fair that his curiosity was excited, doubting if it could contain any other seed. To resolve the doubt however, he carefully spread out a handful on a board, and found amongst it *four grains of chess.* When farmers therefore in ordinary cases, speak of *clean seed*, we are to understand that it is only *comparatively*, and not *positively*, clean.

I mean to apply the foregoing rule to the *three cases* reported by my neighbor; and then we shall see that they afford no kind of proof whatever that either *oats*, *wheat*, or *rye*, turns into chess. A plant that can adopt itself to circumstances so far as to produce good seed, whether it has room to grow four feet high, or only four inches, is hard to exterminate; and chess is of this kind. A *subordinate* crop of this *weed*, sufficient to seed the ground, may have grown amongst his oats; but in addition to this consideration, *that oat-field* was frequented by hogs,—not wild, I presume, but such as had recently gleaned in wheat stubble which is seldom free from chess. Much of these small hard grains would escape their grinders, and be dropped uninjured on the field. The disappearance of the oats may be accounted for, without the aid of transmutation: those which grow among stubble commonly perish in the winter or spring, and very rarely, if ever, come to maturity.

For that part of his *wheat-field* which produced half chess and a quarter smut, S. Griggs admits that the seed was *sent to him*, and the crop of smut showed that it was *foul seed.* The wheat as it declined, made room for the chess to grow.

Neither can there be any thing drawn in favor of transmutation from *the rye patch.* Whether the chess seed all sprouted and came up at the same time with the rye, or whether a part of it *lay dormant* till Autumn, may be a question. Some of it may have ripened among the rye, for new land is not mowed very closely; or it may have been kept under by the rye, or by the scythe, without seeding till the next season. It is well known that many *annuals* may be converted into *biennials*, by preventing them from going to seed.

I would not name my friend Dr. D. A. Robinson without some expression of my regard for him, whose testimony would weigh as much with me as that of any other believer in transmutation; but it is not reasonable to expect us to admit parole evidence to prove what we consider impossible, and contrary to the laws Nature. I would as soon admit parole evidence to prove the actual existence of the Centaur.

* Genesee Farmer, Vol. 2, p. 335.

It is no new thing to hear of wheat and chess growing together on the same stalk; but such cases have always been reported by those who believed them no deviation from the established laws of Nature, and who may have hoped, or expected, to find such phenomena. Of course their scrutinizing powers would not be put so closely in requisition as his powers would be, who rejected such notions. Had our editor believed with them, he might have been imposed on by* Wadsworth's *wheat and chess head*, and that fallacy have passed undetected. A case in some respects similar also occurred to my friend William Carman. He found in the harvest field, a head of wheat with a spikelet of chess projecting from it which made a very imposing appearance; but he soon unraveled the mystery by discovering that the spikelet had caught in the chaff of the wheat-ear, and had broken off. Had this fallen into the hands of one more credulous than persevering, it might also have been exhibited in proof of the doctrine of transmutation.

Oats and spring wheat, not being winter killed, often stand more evenly and regularly over the field than other wheat; of course the chess has less room to grow; and commonly less of its seed is scattered on lands of this description.

Wheat that is eaten off when the stalks are eight or ten inches high, would consequently allow the chess which it had overshadowed and kept under, to spring up; but the mind that can infer from these appearances that the chess grew from the wheat roots and not from its own roots, must make but little use of proof in forming its opinions, and be easily satisfied with strange things.

The case of A. Burr's new wheat-field is prematurely reported. It would be some satisfaction to know wherein wheat-chess resembles wheat more than rye? wherein rye-chess resembles rye more than wheat? wherein flax-chess resembles flax? and why the offspring of that flax seed which was cleaned twenty years† ago in Palmyra, has produced no flax chess in that long course of time? But I hope not for such condescension while all our arguments remain unrefuted, and while facts of the most stubborn kind to our opponents, are left entirely unnoticed.

W. H. has given a circumstantial‡ account of two wheat crops raised in succession, among which not one kernel of chess was found; and if we knew of no other experiment of the kind, this alone ought to shake the belief in transmutation. But when to this, are added the numerous instances already cited, of a total exclusion of chess from whole farms for many years together, and given on the most respectable authorities,—the tide ought to set still stronger against that belief. Neither is this all: in one wheat-growing district where chess was formerly a troublesome weed, but from which the farmers were wise enough to expel it, nearly twenty years have elapsed since its final disappearance.§ Evidence of this weight and magnitude, must preponderate in every well balanced mind.

But it is intimated that the experience of others in the present age or in the past, is to be outweighed and nullified by new experiments about to be made in these days: Grains of wheat, by

* Genesee Farmer, Vol. II. p. 353.
† Genesee Farmer, Vol. 3, p. 38.
‡ Genesee Farmer, Vol. 3, p. 29.
§ Aemrican Farmer, Vol. 13, p. 395.

some alchymic process, partly killed and partly kept alive, are to produce chess-bearing plants of the most prolific kind! For the reputation of our farmers I am glad that so few are implicated in this *manufacture*; and I hope not to be accused of wishing to depress *American talent*, when I apprise them that their day of triumph is more remote than they imagine. They will find, like the Baron Palissy, who wrought sixteen years to perfect his enamel, that "the road to Arts is long."

Suppose, having sown this *prepared wheat*, that they find chess growing in the place, will it prove that the wheat turned into chess? No more than it would prove that the wheat had turned into red-top, or spear grass, should such happen to spring up from a few seeds dropped from their sleeves. There is much uncertainty in conducting such experiments in a neighborhood where chess is abundant. We may have clean seed and clean ground, but who can say that no chess will be dropped there by *accident*? Selah Chapin raised seven heads of wheat from chess, as he avers. Many of our opponents however, no more believe that chess can turn into wheat than we do; but here a difficulty stands before them: they must either admit that statement to be correct, or admit that people (including themselves) may be easily deceived in making such experiments.

Suppose then that a result, in conformity to such overweening confidence, should be reported in the same unqualified manner as that in which the progress of the experiments has been announced, ought we to accept such report? No honest inquirer after truth would put such petty experiments,—liable to be interfered with, changed, and reversed by any animal that can carry and drop a few seeds,—in competition with facts, more numerous, quite as well attested, and which could not possibly have been deranged or perverted by accident or evil intentions. I have already noticed some farms on which no chess had been found among the wheat crops in thirty years. These periods included favorable and unfavorable seasons; much wheat must have been dropped in stubbles, and more or less of it left uncovered in every field that was sown; yet none of it turned into chess. Experiments so extended can admit of no mistake. No countervailing reports can be conclusive, and none ought to be accepted.*

Some doubt whether pigeons disgorge chess. Incredulity sometimes arises from knowing too much to be imposed on, and sometimes from knowing too little to understand the subject. The *crop* of the pigeon is the *basket* in which it carries food, often to the distance of 60 or 80 miles, every day for its young; and by means of a muscle which acts at will, it can empty that *basket* as readily as we can empty our baskets which we carry in our hands. In Winterbotham's History of America, this faculty of the pigeon, is given as a part of its *generic character*. Near Philadelphia, the opinion has been prevalent among farmers, that these birds feed on garlic (*Allium vineale*) which has much infested the fields, but that they eject it whenever they find better food; and one of my neighbors complains that a bad weed has been introduced on his farm by the pigeons, and he no longer permits baiting places to be made for them. The inquiry now arises, would a pigeon, whose *crop* was filled with husky chess, prefer retaining it to eating good wheat? Its power to make the exchange is certain, and I have no doubt of the correctness of its taste. D. T.

Greatfield, 3 mo. 1, 1833.

* It has been suggested that they may cut the stalks on *one side* of a wheat plant to make it sprout up and yield chess while the other side yields wheat. Let them produce the plant!

THE HONEY BEE.

ITS CULTIVATION UPON THE HOUSING PLAN.

I have read the communication of ULMUS on the cultivation of the bee with much interest. Like him, I am a new beginner in the rearing of this useful little insect. Having read a communication two years since of Judge BUEL, in which the housing system is recommended, I determined to make the experiment. But, like Ulmus, I was not sufficiently informed in the particulars relative to this mode of culture, the placing of the hive, the arrangement of the interior of the house, &c. For this I had no other guide than my own judgment. Last winter I prepared a room in my shed loft—obtained a hive of bees, and placed them in it. Thus far I am much pleased with the result of the experiment. The room is about five feet by six on the east end of my shed, and facing the garden, ceiled and made tight to exclude insects, and secure against cold in the winter. I placed the hive on a shelf against the side of the house next the garden, and even with the shelf made a hole, for the egress of the bees, four inches wide, and one and a half inch deep, in which I inserted a spout on the outside of the house ten inches long, with an orifice two inches wide, and one-third of an inch deep. This was the more effectually to prevent the entering of the bee moth. Besides this, I inserted two others, to be closed until the bees increased so as to need them. Even with the top of the hive I formed a rack of narrow strips of lath, supported by cross pieces, far enough apart for the bees to pass between them. Above this I placed two more tiers of lath, about sixteen inches between the tiers, with rods passing between the tiers to support the combs. The house was made perfectly dark, with a small tight door opposite the shelf for occasional entrance. The bees commenced operations vigorously in the spring—cleared the hive of dead bees, &c.—filled up the vacant cells, and began to form their combs on the outside of the hive, attaching them to the strips of lath. To my extreme regret, the worm soon made its appearance, so early that I was convinced it was in the hive when I obtained it, or the eggs from which it was produced. The worms increased considerably—went through their several changes, and abundance of the miller came forth. The bees, however, kept on working, though several of the combs were injured by the worms, and formed thirty or forty weight of beautiful white honey outside of the hive. On the approach of cold weather, the bees all collected into the hive, and left the outside combs free, which were removed with perfect ease. Had there been no worms in the hive when I obtained it, or eggs of the moth, I doubt whether the apiary would have been much molested by them, as I several times watched the motions of the miller in the evening outside, and never saw but one enter. I am now making several alterations in my house, which I think of importance:

1. *To make the house warmer.* For this I shall make the floor double, and perfectly tight; the walls also double and filled in with straw or chaff—perhaps dry tan bark would be better; and in addition to this, plaster the room inside, that there may be the fewest possible cracks or joints for the moth to deposit her eggs, and for the entrance of the cold air. I am satisfied the bees in my room would have perished with the cold, if they could not have found place in the hive.

2. *To simplify and improve the internal arrangement.* To this end, I shall suspend the hive by wires, agreeable to the suggestion of Ulmus, near the top of the room, without any bottom board to it, that the worms, if there be any in it, may fall down, and be unable afterwards to effect a lodgment in it. And instead of the strips of lath, I shall substitute shelves, about eighteen inches wide, smooth on the upper side, with holes bored through them for the bees to pass up and down; the shelves to rest on cleats at the ends, but not to touch the side of the wall, leaving sufficient room for the bees to pass, and forming no hiding place for the worm, or deposit for the eggs of the moth; the joints at the ends of the shelves to be carefully filled with putty, or some other substance; two rods must run between these shelves, as in the other construction, lengthwise, supported by standards. These shelves will be preferable to the racks of lath, on account of their affording fewer crevices, and the greater ease with which the combs may be taken from them.

3. *To ventilate the room.* This, I think, will add to the health of the bees, by making their room cooler in summer, carrying off the perspiration, and secure against the combs breaking down by too great heat, as was the case with mine in the fore part of the summer. To effect this, I shall make two holes through the floor, covered both outside and inside with a fine wire screen, having on the outside a slide to stop it as cold weather approaches; and in the upper ceiling, one or more tubes are to be inserted, communicating with the outside, to be covered with a wire screen, and having slides to stop them on the outside in the winter. By making their house thus tight and warm, and putting up sufficient fixtures, I see no reason why the bees may not increase till they fill it. To give them room to work for many years, I shall put a range of shelves on the south as well as on the east side. I shall be particularly careful to make every joint perfectly tight wherever the bee moth may deposit its eggs. By taking this precaution, and using these long tubes or spouts for the entrance of the bees, I think the worm may be kept out. These are the alterations which I am now making in my apiary. Time will test whether they are improvements or not. In another communication I shall suggest what I consider an improvement upon the plan of Ulmus, in the construction of his extended hive. W. W. B.

Hammond's Port, Feb. 1, 1833.

The muscles of the human jaw exert a force of 434 lbs. and those of mastiffs, wolves, &c. far more. The force is produced by the swelling of the muscles in the middle, and dilating again.

The number of ribs vary, between twelve and thirteen on a side.

SUMMER FALLOWS.

Mr. Editor—Mr. Bradley, in his third number, "highly recommends oats, and disapproves corn, as a fallow crop," but the fitness or unfitness of either depends entirely on the soil; for rich loams, or alluvial soils, which are sufficiently moist to be well adapted for oats, when highly cultivated, answer well to follow with wheat, but do not answer after corn. Hard dry soils, which are not congenial for oats, answer well for corn when manured, and do exceedingly well to follow with wheat.

I am really glad to perceive that Mr. B., in his fourth number, has undertaken the vindication of summer fallowing, for it is much to be regretted that so large a number of our theoretical farmers condemn so useful a piece of husbandry.

Light soils, which are highly manured and well cultivated, will do well to produce wheat after summer crops; but clay grounds, or foul land, must be summer fallowed to fit them properly for wheat.

In England, where there is so much said about the profit of fallow crops, their stiff soils are universally fallowed; for experience has taught them that such soils must be worked when dry, and require the heat of summer to pulverize them. The proper time of breaking up depends entirely on circumstances. Ground that has lain long to grass, and attained a tough sward, it is essential to plough early, in order that time may be given for decomposition. And the same applies to all ground that is filled with weeds; but ground that is clean, and covered with clover, late ploughing answers equally as well, and sometimes better; and if in high order, it may be pastured, or even mowed, by the latter part of June, and twice ploughing willl put it in complete order for wheat. If the ground is poor, turn under the clover early in June, and you obtain a cheap and valuable manure, which will make almost any soil produce a crop of wheat.

The number of ploughings for a fallow depends equally on circumstances. They should never be allowed to become covered with weeds, and as often as it becomes green they should be turned under; but providing the sward should not be rotted, it may be worked by a *scarifier*, or corn harrow, which will pulverize the surface—destroy the weeds—but not disturb the sod. F.

PRICKLEY ASH FOR HEDGES.

I have long been of the opinion that the Fraxinus, Prickly Ash, or toothache tree, as it is familiarly called, would make a hedge in all respects as good, if not superior, to any shrub now in use either here or in Europe. It, to my knowledge, thrives well on clayey, or even sandy or gravelly soils, but best on rich moist bottom land, and is about as hard to subdue as are elders. As far as my knowledge extends, it is not infested with lice or worms, which are so destructive to the English thorn in our country. No blight affects it that I know. Has any one made trial of it for the above purpose? If so, will they please to favor us with the result of their experiment, and oblige one of the public, and perhaps many.

I. W. SMITH.

Lockport, 2 mo. 20, 1833.

Repair all your farming utensils, now you have leisure.

ON GARDENING.

The period is now fast approaching, when the rigors of winter will be succeeded by returning spring—when vegetation will again display its beauties, and our gardens and our fields be clothed with their luxuriant mantles. Flora will again invite us to examine her beauties and admire her diversified charms, rewarding us, for this tribute of our admiration, with health, repose of mind, and a calm solace amid the multifarious cares of this sublunary world. These are gratifications within the reach of every individual who possesses a garden, and in this free and happy country there are but few who, from necessity, are deprived of this source of varied pleasure. These inducements alone might entice man to seek for enjoyment during his leisure hours, amid the attractions and innumerable beauties of a well cultivated garden. But these form only a part of the many advantages which result from this delightful recreation, independent of the garden being a source of delight and comfort. The products of a kitchen garden form important articles in the food of man for all ranks of society; furnishing the tables of the rich with luxuries, and the poor with a great part of their support; and I will ask, where is the individual, whether rich or poor, who will not eat with a greater relish the vegetable reared in his own garden, and nurtured under his own immediate care, than he would such as he might purchase at market, or receive as a gift from a friend? There is a heartfelt satisfaction in saying, "This is the produce of *my own* garden." What a variety of pleasing associations will accompany the remark. Every anxious look which watched its progress—every fostering care which we awarded to it will occur to our recollection, and fill our hearts with a benign satisfaction, and with sensations which those alone can appreciate who have tasted the pleasures and drank from this source of intellectual gratification. But the pleasures attendant on the cultivation of a garden have been so recently laid before the readers of the "Genesee Farmer,"* in a manner which render any further observations of mine unnecessary. Than the writer of that article, none are more competent to describe the diversified charms and the pleasures of a garden—with a mind well calculated to appreciate its every beauty and every benefit—with a heart warmly devoted to the interests of rural economy—with opportunities which afford him every facility to investigate the laws and beauties of nature, and with a disposition ardently desirous to benefit mankind at large by the results of his investigations and laudable exertions, he is placing his country under a deep debt of gratitude; but he finds his reward in the approbation of his own benevolent heart.

In a publication such as the Genesee Farmer, the readers of which look to its pages for much of their information on agricultural and horticultural subjects, it must be highly advantageous that this information appear at due season—that it assume a tangible shape, and be reduced to something like a system, otherwise the matter, however useful, will be disjointed, and published frequently at a season inappropriate for its execution. Information which is read immediately before the operations on which it treats ought to be performed, is likely to be attended with a double advantage; it not only directs our attention to the manner of performing the operation, but acts as a stimulus to undertake them.

I propose to furnish for several successive numbers of the Farmer, some general observations on the different branches of Gardening; and I shall use my endeavors to give such directions and information as will enable every farmer to combine in his garden the ornamental with the useful. But in conveying information on such a variety of subjects as this will naturally embrace, the different articles under each must necessarily receive but a brief notice; still I hope to render them sufficiently explicit, that they shall be of considerable benefit to the uninitiated, and probably some assistance to the more proficient in the art.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

On the formation of Kitchen Gardens.—In fixing upon a site for a kitchen garden, it should be placed as near the house and stable yard as is consistent with beauty, convenience and other arrangements: for a kitchen garden may be made as agreeable and as interesting a scene as any part of the residence. A kitchen garden should never be laid out in an irregular manner, for as it is the most *useful*, it may be made equally agreeable with the pleasure ground and flower garden. Symmetry, due proportion of the walks, borders and compartments according to the extent, must be in the first place well considered; next, convenience for executing all the operations required to be carried on, placing the fruit trees, large and small, at proper distances, according to their respective growths; in short, combining all the principal objects and features in such order that there may be full scope for the cultivation of the larger crops, and subdivisions enough for the smaller. The form of a kitchen garden should, if possible, be either a square or oblong; all gardeners agree in this being decidedly the most convenient for a garden. With regard to its natural situation, a gentle declivity toward the south, and if a little inclining to the east so much the better, is decidedly the best. All low situations and bottoms of valleys ought to be avoided. A medium altitude is the most desirable. In laying out the area, or space enclosed, a walk should be carried round the whole at such a distance from the fence as will leave a proportionate border to the extent of the garden. The walks must be ruled by the same principle. Two other walks, if the garden exceeds a quarter of an acre in extent, should be laid through the center from north to south and from east to west, crossing each other at right angles—which will give a border all round the garden, and four grand divisions in the center. With these brief hints, I proceed to the practical part of the gardening operations.*

In the ground department of the kitchen garden, no operations can be performed during this inclement weather, but every preparation should be made that no delay may take place when the weather admits. But as respects forcing, or accelerating desirable fruits or vegetables in their maturation, or forwarding others some stages in

* See Vol. 3. p. 37.

* As regards the formation and planting a flower garden, I beg the reader's attention to that subject, which I have explained more fully in the 2d vol. p. 354, 361, 362, of the Farmer.

their growths, this is the time to prepare the materials for that purpose. Horse manure from the stable yard is generally preferred, but it must undergo a degree of fermentation before it is formed into a bed. The object of this fermentation is to get rid of the violent heat and rancid gases. The method adopted for this purpose is, to form the manure into ridges of a considerable size, and turn it frequently over. Air and moisture being requisite for this purpose, should the manure become too dry, it must be watered as it is turned over during the fermenting process. Two or three weeks will be quite sufficient for every purpose, if the manure is turned over three or four times during that period. Care must be taken to exclude the rain, if it is likely to impede the process of fermentation. The quantity required will depend for what purpose it is intended. For forcing cucumbers and melons, glazed lights with frames will be absolutely necessary at this early season; but for rearing radishes, cauliflower plants, cabbage plants, lettuce plants, &c. a more temporary concern will answer the purpose. But this must be explained in next week's paper.

I am, very respectfully,

ALEXANDER GORDON.

Rochester Nursery, Main-st., March 12, 1833.

THE HORSE.

No part of the science of physiology is more interesting than *anatomy*, whether applied to the human form, or to the endless variety of physical powers exhibited in the animal creation around us. Every animal is a beautiful machine, made up of a vast variety of lever, pullies and mechanical force, which are kept in constant action by the animating power of the great Author of all motion. The contemplation and study of this subject, leads us more to admire and adore the omnipotence of the CREATOR than almost any other. It matters not what animal structure we investigate, as the same general principles are involved.

Among the animals under our immediate charge, the horse is the most conspicuous, and its structure perhaps the most interesting. I do not propose to enter into any analysis of its structure, but simply to make a few extracts from the "Farmer's Series" of the Library of Useful Knowledge, exhibiting some general ideas of particular parts. In doing this, I should hope it might lead *some* of our intelligent farmers to a more thorough investigation of the physiology of the animals under their constant care:

THE EYE.

"The eye of the horse is a most important organ; it should be large and somewhat, but not too prominent, and the eyelid fine and thin. If the eye be sunk in the head, and *apparently* small, and the lid thick, and especially if there be any puckering toward the inner corner of the lids, that eye is either diseased, or has been lately inflamed.

"The eye of the horse enables us pretty accurately to guess at his temper. If much of the white be seen, the buyer should pause ere he completes his bargain; because although it may, yet very rarely, happen that the *cornea* or transparent part is unnaturally small, and therefore an unusual portion of the white is seen, yet experience has shown that this display of white is dangerous, and a pretty sure indication of mischief.

"The eyes are placed at the side of the head, yet a little pointed forward, to give the animal a more extended field of vision. They are supported behind by muscles attached to different parts of the bony orbit, and they are imbedded in a vast mass of fat, upon which they may be readily moved, and without friction; and that fat, being absorbed in sickness or old age, the eyes are retracted and sink into their orbits.

"In front, the eye is supported and covered by lids, which closing rapidly, protect it from many injuries.

"The skin of the lid is, like that of the ear, exceedingly fine, to prevent unnecessary weight and pressure on such a part, and to give more easy and extensive motion. The lids close accurately when drawn over the eye, and this is effected by a little strip of cartillage at the edge of each of them, which may be easily felt with the finger, and which preserves them in a hoop-like form, and adapts them closely to the eye and to each other. The lower cartilage, however, does not present toward the inner corner of the eye the whole of its flat surface to the upper, but evidently slopes inward, and only the outer edge of the under lid touches the upper, and by this means a little gutter is formed, by which the superfluous moisture of the eye flows to the inner corner, where there is a canal to convey it away, and therefore it neither accumulates in the eye, nor runs down the cheek.

"Along the edges of the lids are placed numerous little hollows, which can be plainly distinguished even in the living horse, by slightly turning down the lid. These are the openings into numerous small cells, containing a thick and unctuous fluid, by means of which the eyes are more accurately closed, and the edges of the lids defended from the acrimony of the tears.

"The horse has no *eyebrows*, and the *eyelashes* are very peculiarly arranged. The rows of hair are longest and most numerous on the upper lid, and especially toward the outer or temporal corner, because the light comes from above; and as the animal stands, and particularly when he is grazing, and from the lateral situation of his eyes, the greater portion of light, and the attacks of insects, would be chiefly from the outside or temples. Toward the inner corner of the eye there is little or no eyelash, because there is no probable danger in that direction. Only a small quantity of light can enter from below, but as in the act of grazing, insects may more readily climb up and be troublesome, toward the inner angle, there the principal or only hair is found on the lower lid.

"They who are unacquainted with the absurdities of stable management, or who have not carefully examined the abuses which may exist in their own establishments, can scarcely conceive the foolish and cruel practices of grooms. We know that when the groom is anxious that his horse should be trim and neat, the very eyelashes are generally sacrificed. What has the poor animal not suffered, when traveling in the sun; and how many accidents have probably happened from his being dazzled by the light, but which have been attributed to other causes.

"On the lower lid is a useful provision to warn the horse of the near approach of any object that might incommode or injure him, in the form of long projecting hairs or bristles, and which are plenteously imbued with nervous influence, so that the slightest touch shall put the animal on his guard. We would request any of our readers, by whom the experiment has never been made, to touch very lightly the extremity of one of these hairs. They will be surprised to observe the sudden convulsive twitching of the lid, rendering the attack of the insect absolutely impossible. Those ignorant grooms, however, who cut away the eyelashes, do not spare these useful feelers.

* * * * * * *

"There is another important provision, for supplying the eye with the requisite moisture, and for washing from off the transparent part of it, insects or dust which may annoy the animal. What becomes of these impurities when thus washed off? Are they carried by the tears to the corner of the eye, and so pass down this duct and irritate and obstruct it; or do they accumulate at the inner angle of the eye? There is a beautiful contrivance for disposing of them as fast as they enter the eye. Concealed within the inner corner of the eye, or only the margin of it, black or pied, visible, is a triangular shaped cartilage, the *haw*, with its broad part before. It is concave within, exactly to suit the globe of the eye; and it is convex without, accurately to adapt itself to the membrane lining the lid; and the base of it is reduced to a thin or almost sharp edge. At the will of the animal this is suddenly protruded from its hiding place, passes rapidly over the eye, and shovels up every nuisance mixed with the tears, and then, being speedily drawn back, the dust or insect is wiped off as the cartilage again passes under the corner of the eye.

"How is this managed? This cartilage has no muscles attached to it, and the limbs, and the different parts of the body, when put in motion, are moved invariably by muscles. The mechanism is simple and effectual. There is a great mass of fat at the back of the eye, that the eye may be easily moved; and this fat is particularly accumulated about the inner corner of the eye, and beneath, and at the point of this cartilage. The eye of the horse has likewise very strong muscles attached to it, and one, peculiar to quadrupeds, of extraordinary power, and by whose aid, if the animal has not hands to ward off danger, he is at least enabled to draw the eye back almost out of the reach of it.

"If dust, gravel or insects, shall have entered the eye, and annoy the horse, this peculiar muscle suddenly acts. The eye is forcibly drawn back, and presses upon the fatty matter. That may be displaced, but cannot be squeezed into a less compass. It is forced violently towards the inner corner of the eye, and it drives before it the *haw*; and the haw having likewise some fat about the point of it, and being placed between the eye and an exceedingly smooth bone, and being pressed upon by the eye as it is violently drawn back, shoots out with the rapidity of lightning, and, guided by the eyelids, projects over the eye, and thus carries off the offending matter.

"The old farriers strangely misunderstood the nature and design of the haw, and many of the present day do not seem to be much better informed. When from sympathy with other parts of the eye, laboring under inflammation, and becoming itself inflamed and increased in bulk, it was either forced out of its place, or voluntarily protruded to defend the eye, and could not return, they mistook it for some excrescence, or tumor, and proceeded to cut it out. The "haw in the eyes" is a disease well known to most grooms, and this sad remedy is deemed the only cure. It is a barbarous practice, and if they were compelled to walk half a dozen miles in a thick dust, and without being permitted to wipe or cleanse the eye, they would feel the torture to which they doom this noble animal.

"The loss of blood occasioned by cutting out the haw may frequently relieve inflammation of the eye, and the evident amendment which follows induces these *wise men* to believe that they have performed an excellent operation; but the same loss of blood by scarification of the overloaded vessels would be equally beneficial, and the animal would not be deprived of an instrument of admirable use to him." QUERCUS.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Your correspondent D. F. is in the right in saying, that twenty who would not pay without the fear of a prison, do pay, for every one who actually suffers under the law of imprisonment; yet he has forgotten a much more important view of the matter.

By the law of imprisonment he would saddle the community with twenty-one of his company of rascals, who, without the benefit of credit arising from this law, must either leave it, or become honest and industrious enough to obtain a living, credit or no credit.

When men can be trusted upon their honor, or upon a pledge of property, they ought to be trusted. When these are not security enough, the man who gives a credit, deserves to lose his debt as a punishment for encouraging vagrancy.

In a christian community we expect the poor always to be with us, yet we are not bound to be-

lieve that we are always to be infested with villains. I say, starve them out. LACON.

The following communication is in reply to an extract inserted among our miscellaneous articles on the last page of No. 8. We give it, with the remark that the article to which it alludes would not have been published, had the thought occurred to us that it might lead to a discussion of the opinions expressed in it. We wish, and we intend, to avoid, as far as possible, all topics not connected with the subjects to which the paper is specially devoted.

QUAKER'S ANNUAL.

TO THE EDITOR—Your paper of last week contains an article headed "Quaker's Annual," embracing an extract from the "Aurora Borealis," said to be a new annual, conducted by Friends in England. I had not before heard of this publication, and cannot judge of its merits farther than as the extract before us affords a specimen of its contents.

The writer, after representing the character of George Fox as great and striking, and declaring himself to be a member of the society founded through his instrumentality, goes on with a brief stricture on those who are "prouder" of "particular badges and opinions than zealous for the simple truth of Christ." There may be many cases to which this stricture is justly applicable, but it appears to have been here introduced preparatory to the admission of his following declaration, with which it has, in truth, no connection, and therefore, to avoid a sophistical conclusion, it should be kept separate.

He proceeds to say: "I, for one, should rejoice to see the day when all sects should be merged in one wide and tolerant church, which should demand of its members no test—no title to admission but an honest avowal of their belief in God and in Jesus Christ as his Son and the Savior of the world." These are the only points in which he would have his proposed church unanimous; leaving its members to differ indefinitely on every other doctrine and precept of the New Testament. But the society of which George Fox was founder, beside supporting the great fundamental doctrines of Christianity, in common with the Episcopal church from which it dissented in many of its forms and ceremonies, supports also certain views of the precepts of the New Testament which are not generally adopted by other sects, and which are essential to its existence. Among these are a full conviction that oaths and war are strictly forbidden in the New Testament, and therefore that they are unlawful for Christians. No faithful member can dissent from the church in the principles that thus identify it; and in the exercise of its discipline, it rejects from its communion all who publicly manifest such dissention.

But our author would annihilate all such distinctions, and with them, as he supposes, "the cause of a thousand dissentions and heart-burnings." He would reject those testimonies, for which G. Fox and his coadjutors sacrificed their liberty, and some of them even their lives, as nuisances to the Christian church. His liberality is such as would introduce the most conflicting opinions into the bosom of those communities which should be characterized by love and harmony. To remedy these differences of sentiment that exist in different sects, and which each individual may support agreeably to the compact that unites him with his brethren, without disturbing his fellow Christian of a different sect, he would blot out every Christian doctrine except those contained in his short creed. My liberality is of a different character. I would have every Christian first manifest his liberality towards the sect of which he is a member by not interrupting its harmony, and if he should become dissatisfied with its principles, let him peaceably withdraw, and consort with congenial minds.

Our author further shows his loose attachment to the principles of Friends as a particular religious society, by declaring that he prides himself in them "only in so far as they are the principles of Christianity."

I have supposed that the Annuals were intended to be a very choice collection of materials, adapted to form and improve the minds of persons in early life, and that they fulfilled the design in proportion to the competency of the compilers. With these views I can but consider one containing such sentiments highly objectionable, and not inappropriately characterized by the title Aurora Borealis, an unsteady and variable light that operates only in the absence of the sun, as well described by Thompson:

"But when half blotted from the sky her light,
Fainting, permits the starry fires to burn
With keener lustre through the depth of heaven;
Or near extinct her deadened orb appears,
And scarce appears, of sickly beamless white:
Oft in this season, silent from the north,
A blaze of meteors shoots; ensweeping first
The lower skies, they all at once converge
High to the crown of heaven, and all at once
Relapsing quick, as quickly re-ascend,
And mix, and thwart, extinguish and renew
All ether coursing in a maze of light."

SILAS CORNELL.

Linden Hill, 3 *mo.* 4, 1833.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.—At a county meeting held at Hudson, Feb. 23, 1833, an Agricultural Society was formed, and the following officers chosen:

EDWARD P. LIVINGSTON, *President.*
JOHN P. BEEKMAN, and ABRAHAM P. HOLDRIDGE, *Vice Presidents.*
WILLIAM B. LUDLOW, *Treasurer.*
CARROL LIVINGSTON, *Corresponding Sec'y.*
WILLIAM H. WILLSON, *Recording Secretary.*

The following standing committees were also elected, viz:

On Agriculture.—John Sanders, jr. Ransom Gilbert, and Joab Center.

On Horticulture.—Erastus Pratt, James Mellen, and Henry W. Livingston.

On Manufactures.—Jonathan Scott, James Richmond, and James Wild.

On Animals.—Solomon Griswold, Peter H. Bain, and Anson Livingston.

On Domestic Industry.—Leonard W. Ten Broeck, Lawrence Van Buren, and John S. Vosburg.

A public Fair is to be held at Hudson on the 2d Wednesday in October. The funds for payment of Premiums to be raised by the receipts from members, who are to pay $2,00 annually.

CLINTON AND ESSEX.—A meeting of the citizens of these counties was held at Keeseville, Feb. 6, 1833, at which an Agricultural Society was formed. The payment of one dollar annually constitutes a member of the Society. As another means of raising funds an extra subscription was formed. Twenty persons having become members by the payment of $1,00, the meeting proceeded to organize the Society. ETKANAH WATSON, Esq. was unanimously chosen President, but declined on account of his advanced age, whereupon *Richard Keese*, of Keeseville, was appointed President; *Henry H. Ross*, of Essex, and *Robert Platt*, of Clinton, Vice-Presidents. *Andrew Thompson*, Treasurer, and *W. J. Whaling*, Secretary.

OHIO.—There are several well established and efficient Agricultural Societies in this state, and we observe with pleasure that notices are published for meetings in several counties to form similar Societies.

We are compelled, for want of room, to defer the insertion of several communications which we had intended to publish this week. For the same reason, we are unable to commence the publication of the Communications read before the State Society at their late meeting, in the present number.

☞ On the 6th March, the editor of the Albany E. Journal was presented with a fine bunch of radishes, and some fine heads of lettuce, from the garden of Gen. S. Van Rensselaer, Jr.

Death of Richard K. Meade, Esq.

The following obituary notice will be read with melancholy interest by every reader of the American Farmer. American agriculturists have sustained a loss in the death of Mr. Meade not easily supplied. Indeed, the sheep husbandry of the middle and western states, particularly, has lost its most active and most successful patron. Individually, we have lost a warm friend, as well as an able coadjutor in our professional labors.—*American Farmer.*

Died, at Lucky-hit Farm, Frederick County, (Va.) on Tuesday the 26th ult. RICHARD KIDDER MEADE, in the 50th year of his age. On the morning of the 26th our friend was in the enjoyment of his usual health. At 12 o'clock he repaired to the meeting-house at the White Post, and with a fervor of zeal peculiar to himself, was prepared to take an active part in the proceedings of a temperance society, which he himself had been greatly instrumental in forming a few months previous, and to the success of which he seemed determined to devote the energies of his mind and body. The society being organized, the President read some very beautiful and appropriate extracts from the addresses of Judge CRANCH and others, selected for the occasion by our departed friend; he held in his hand a paper containing many valuable resolutions, which he himself had drawn up, and which he intended to offer with suitable remarks; but, appalling to relate! when his brother, Bishop Meade, inquired for his resolutions, he turned upon him a countenance and features shockingly marred by *paralysis*. Medical aid was immediately obtained, and he was carried home. A partial paralyses was then succeeded by apoplexy, and a few minutes before 5 o'clock he expired.

ALBANY SEED STORE.

C. BUEL & CO., having bought the Seed Establishment of W. Thorburn, beg leave to inform, that the business will be continued at the old stand, No. 347 N Market street, near the Post Office, Mansion House, and City Hotel.—They have on hand a supply of fresh GARDEN SEEDS, of the best kinds, and intend to keep at all times an assortment. Also, GARDENERS' TOOLS, as spades, shovels, rakes, lines, knives, trowels, saws, &c.; and many FIELD SEEDS, as lucern, clover, and other grasses; mangold wortzel, ruta baga, and the other varieties of turneps; green house Plants, split peas, barley, oat and rice meal, bird seed, &c. A small assortment of horticultural and agricultural books.

Orders for trees and plants, and for American Horticultural and Agricultural Books received and forwarded,

Cut Flowers or Boquets, furnished on short notice. Gentlemen wanting Gardeners, and Gardeners wanting places, may send their applications to the Store. *Albany, March 8.*

TO A SNOW BIRD.

Lone stranger, of mysterious birth!
Where is thy native place on earth?
Man, with his wisdom, cannot trace
Thy solitary hiding place!
Drear desolation comes with thee,
And hidden is thy history!
When winter's scowling blasts deface
Fair summer's flow'ry resting place—
And driving snows are burying
Beneath their shrouds the wreathes of spring!
And all their warbling tribe, sublime,
Have sought a more congenial clime!—
Thou comest with the voice of glee,
To chirp upon the leafless tree!
Or gather crumbs that fall before
The scarcely opened cottage door—
And even children share with thee
Their little meal in harmony!
Bird of the snows! sure thou must be
A TYPE of immortality!
Thy coming is unknown to man—
Thy destiny he cannot scan!
But in thy visit he may learn
From earth's alluring joys to turn,
And tune his soul amid the gloom
Of nature's fast approaching tomb!
Does sunny spring for thee ne'er spread
Its verdant trees and rosied bed?
Hast thou not perch'd upon some flower,
Or sang beneath a mant'ling bower?
Hath not thy voice been heard among
Sweet summer's joyous warbling throng—
Till winter summoned thee away
From these bright scenes of pleasure, gay?
And bade thee take another form,
And sing, triumphant, o'er the storm?

THE STREAM OF LIFE.—Life bears us on like the stream of a mighty river. Our boat first glides down the narrow channel, through the playful murmurings of the little brook, and the windings of its grassy border. The trees shed their blossoms over our young heads; the flowers on the brink seem to offer themselves to our young hands; we are happy in hope, and we grasp eagerly at the beauties around us; but the stream hurries on, and still our hands are empty.

Our course in youth and manhood is along a wider and a deeper flood, and amid objects more striking and munificient. We are animated by the moving picture of enjoyment and industry which passes before us; we are excited by some short-lived success, or depressed by some equally short-lived disappointment. But our energy and our dependence are both in vain. The stream bears us on, and our joys and our griefs are alike left behind us. We may be shipwrecked, but we cannot anchor: our voyage may be hastened, but it cannot be delayed; whether rough or smooth the river hastens towards its home, till the roaring of the ocean is in our ears, and the tossing of the waves is beneath our keel, and the land lessons from our eyes, and the floods are lifted up around us, and the earth loses sight of us and we take our last leave of earth and its inhabitants; and of our farther voyage there is no witness, save the Infinite and the Eternal.

And do we still take so much interest in our future days, when the days which have gone by have so uniformly, and so strangely deceived us? Can we still so set our hearts on the creatures of God, when we find by sad experience that the Creator only is permanent? Or shall we not rather lay aside every weight and every sin which doth most easily beset us, and think of ourselves henceforth, as wayfaring persons only, who have no abiding inheritance but in the hope of a better world and to whom even that world would be worse than hopeless, if it were not for our Lord Jesus Christ, and the interests we have obtained in his mercies.—*Heber.*

NEW CHINESE MULBERRY.

COLOR OF COCOONS.

A few weeks ago, a gentleman of my acquaintance brought home with him from Parmentier's, whither he had been on a visit, some beautiful white silk which he shewed me, assuring me at the same time, that all silkworms, fed on the new Chinese mulberry, would produce white silk. I have lately observed, however, in some of the prints, that Dr *Pascalis* had imported from France, two kinds of silkworms, one producing silk entirely white, and the other kind, silk of a nankeen color. Now I wish to inquire if there may not be some mistake in that matter? and whether it was not Dr. P's white silkworms that happened to be fed on the new Chinese mulberry that produced the silk which I saw? AN INQUIRER

Remarks by the Editor of the American Farmer.—We are disposed to attribute the color of the cocoons above referred to, to some accidental circumstance. We have had cocoons of all colors from the worms of the common sulphur color variety. We have also had worms that uniformly produce white cocoons. There is a small variety cultivated in Connecticut that are uniformly white. From our experience we are led to believe that the food makes no difference as to the color of the cocoons; and indeed it is of little consequence as the color is confined to the *gum*, which on being extracted, leaves the silk uniformly white—whatever may have been the color of the cocoon.—*American Farmer.*

AMERICAN SILK FILATURES.

We have several times had occasion to remark, in reply to inquiries where a market for cocoons could be found, and to observations that, "if filatures were established, the raising of cocoons would be immediately commenced," that as soon as a sufficient supply of cocoons could be secured, filatures would, as a matter of course, immediately follow, and not till then. The Cincinnati Farmer and Mechanic differs from us in this opinion, and thinks that filatures should be erected to induce the farmers to produce cocoons.—Certainly this would have a good effect; but who will do it? Who will go to the expense of establishing a filature in Cincinnati or in Baltimore when he knows that he cannot obtain cocoons enough to keep a single reel going one month?—This is a practical question—and it is practically answered by the fact of the non-existence of filatures in these places But let it once be known that *mulberry orchards* exist in extent sufficient to keep a filature in operation, and we pledge ourselves that the filatures shall not be wanting

We beg leave once more to caution the people of the west against depending upon their native mulberry trees for a supply of leaves for silkworms, and earnestly to recommend them, if they intend to enter into the culture of silk, to plant regular orchards of either the new Chinese, or Italian mulberry, convenient to their houses.—They may be assured that a dependence upon the native mulberry in its wild state will be fatal to the progress of the enterprise. The Farmer and Mechanic encourages this dependence It says, "Here it (the mulberry,) exists in a state of maturity, one of the common trees of the forest, and in a few weeks, at the proper season, the raw material can be produced." If even the *Italian* mulberry existed ever so plentifully in the forest, it could not be depended on for silkworms. The food for worms must be convenient—the trees should surround the laboratory, that the labor and time of gathering the leaves do not cost more than the cocoons are worth. The wild mulberry we know makes good silk, and does very well for feeding a small number of worms; but we also know that the white, and the new Chinese mulberry, make better silk and more of it and that if we intend to raise worms enough to make it an object worthy of attention, we must have the trees at the door. We have spent too much money in gathering leaves from the woods, (and they are as plentiful here as in the west,) to feed silkworms, to be mistaken on this point.

We recognise fully, the character of the western people for enterprise and readily agree with the Farmer and Mechanic, that they are disposed to engage in new pursuits They will ultimately become a great silk producing people—but not till they shall resort to regular plantations of the more approved kinds of mulberry. Nor will any silk reeler, skilled in the art, ever establish a filature amongst them while they continue their dependence on the wild trees. We beg the people of the west to take this matter into serious consideration, and to be assured that we speak from something more than conjecture—having *paid* pretty dearly for the experience on which we found this advice.—*Am. Farmer.*

FARM FOR SALE.

THE subscriber offers for sale the Farm on which he now resides, situated on the main road two miles north of the city of Buffalo, Erie co. containing 86 acres of land, not exceeded for richness or fertility by any in the vicinity, having thereon a good two story dwelling house, very convenient; a wood house 50 by 18, one and a half stories high, and calculated for storing grain; a good barn, &c.; a large garden and orchard, containing 100 apple trees, with choice grafted fruit of various kinds. The above Farm will be sold low, and payment be made easy.

SYLVANUS RUSSELL.

For further particulars inquire of Sylvanus Russell on the premises, or of John B. Macy, firm of Smith & Macy, or S. N. Callender, Main street, Buffalo.

Buffalo, Feb. 26, 1833. mar 1-r4t f4t*

Fresh Garden Seeds.

THE subscribers respectfully inform the public that they have entered into partnership in the seed business, and they assure the public that nothing shall be wanting on their part to give the utmost satisfaction to those who may favor them with their patronage It is the intention of the subscribers to erect an elegant Greenhouse in connection with this establishment, where a choice collection of new, rare, and beautiful flowering plants will be supplied from the New-York Botanic Garden upper end of Broadway; and also from the same establishment the best sorts of Flowering shrubs, Garden roses, Hardy perennial plants, Double Dahlias, Chinese Pœonias, Grape Vines, Gooseberries, Currants, Raspberries, Trees for the streets, &c. &c. They have just received from London, a large importation of garden and flower seeds the growth of 1831, such as Cabbage, Cauliflower, Brocoli, Radish, Pease, Grass Seeds, &c. &c.; and also from Glasgow, Hawthorn quicks for Hedges, Red moss, White moss, and White Provence roses. The trade supplied on the most reasonable terms, and all orders by mail or otherwise. will be punctually attended to. SMITH & HOGG,

New-York, May 1832. No. 388, Broadway

FOR SALE,

BY the subscriber in Macedon, Wayne co., 50,000 *White Mulberry Trees.*

WM. P. RICHARDSON.

oct 6-ftf

GRASS SEED.

CASH paid for Grass Seed, at my store.

Rochester, sept 19-f6m A. CHAPIN.

WENDELL'S REPORTS, Vol. 8, just received by

mar 12 HOYT, PORTER & Co.